

**Williamsburg County School Board of Trustees**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 22, 2022 – 6:00 PM**  
**Public Service Administrative Building – Council Chambers 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**201 W. Main Street – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556**

**Members Present:** Marva B. Cannon, Rev. Jerry L. Dicks, Heyward Baker, Rev. Martin Cunningham, Rev. Alfred Darby, Mack Burgess, James Dukes, Jr., and Carletta Scott Isreal

**Member Absent:** Mike Floyd

**Others Present:** Brandon Alter, Ernestine Young, Joseph Travoy McCullough, Kelvin Wymbs, LeAndrea Montgomery, Berlinda Mack, Relus Lucear, Jr., Terrence Snider, Jennifer Murray, Patricia Burch, Reagan Miles, Tara Richardson, Torrance Wilson, Jonathan Chandler, Donna Palmer, Kimberly Brown, Myron Davis, Anita James McNellage, and Wallace Mack

**Zoom Video Conference Call:** Lorene Bradley, Brunson, Latetia Staggers, iPhone8433720669, Kingstree News, KC, Bonita Glover, Amanda Dorris, and iPhone (9) Kimlilo

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Marva B. Cannon at 6:00 pm. The secretary confirmed the Establishment of Quorum, and the chair confirmed the Notification of Media.

**Welcome**

The chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

**Moment of Silence**

Ms. Cannon asked all persons to observe a Moment of Silence.

**Thought of Today**

Mack Burgess shared the Thought for Today.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by James Dukes, Jr. and seconded by Rev. Alfred Darby. The motioned was carried.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All persons were asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation**

Anita James McNellage, Retired Certified Special Education Teachers, asked the board about employment with the school district as a special education teacher after several attempts were made to Williamsburg County School District Human Resources Office.

**Action Items**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby seconded by Rev. Jerry L. Dicks to approve the board minutes. Rev. Dicks did not vote by show of hand. The motion was carried.

### **Legislative Update**

Heyward Baker, Legislative Liaison, shared two items with the board. First, the Attorney General wrote a letter and filed a lawsuit against school districts who did not comply with South Carolina Code 30-4-10: The Freedom of Information Act. This code governs the matter and timeframe in which school district should respond to the public. Second, Gov. Master appointed Dr. Barbara S. Neilson, Chair, Kim Rhodes, and Dr. Kevin L. O’Gorman to the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Task Force on August 18, 2022. The purpose of this committee is to recommend policies for improving the recruitment, retention, and effectiveness of teachers.

### **Update from the District**

Williamsburg County School District’s principals attended the board meeting at the request of the board to provide information on the goals, mission, innovative programs implemented and any other information.

**Dr. Reagan Milles, W. M. Anderson Primary School, Principal** shared the following: The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Kingstree Branch #6500 presented the school with new US and Palmetto Flags, held Meet and Greet with parents, and the school is a Montessori School.

**Patricia Burch, Hemingway Elementary School, Principal** shared the following: Meet and Greet with the parents and Open House scheduled within the week. The school principal emphasized meeting the needs of the individual children through a holistic approach through planned professional development for teachers. Principal Burch stated that the approach aligned to the school’s motto: “Growing the Future, Growing Hearts, and Growing Minds.” In addition to the theme: “Every Student Matters and Every Moment Counts.”

**Jennifer Murray, Greeleyville Primary School, Principal** stated the Instructional Support Plan to support individual students’ academic, behavior, social, and emotional needs by teaching within a framework. Principal Murray shared that all teachers’ goals is to have 70% of students to meet their projected growth goal. She shared additional support to assist students working on or above grade level. The following events/activities were planned: Open House, Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in partnership with Low Country Foodbank; asking for volunteers; and School Improvement and PTO Meeting, Thursday, September 15, 2022, 6:00 PM. The School Improvement and PTO Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month. She concluded with additional highlights, special programs, and recognition along with the vision, goals and mission of the school.

**Belinda Mack, Kenneth Gardner Elementary School, Principal** acknowledged the presents of Mr. LeAndrea Montgomery, Assistant Principal. She highlighted local community partners to include local churches, non-profits, agencies, and colleges to support students. Principal Mack shared the school mission, addressing academics, social, and emotional needs of each child. In addition to increase students’ academics, behaviors, engaging parents, and student attendance.

**Dr. Relus Lucear, Kingstree Middle Magnet School of the Arts, Principal** shared the following three goals for this school year, (1) improve academic achievement; (2) provide interventions strategies for struggling students; and (3) improve our school culture and addressing social and emotional issues. He

also shared celebrating staff and students and spotlighted the arts by adding more programs to the schedule for next school year.

**Terrance Snider, Hemingway MB Middle and Hemingway High School, Principal** shared that he was the new principal at the middle and high school for this year. He provided with an overview on the employment of former students at Hemingway High School and Williamsburg County School District for teaching and classified staff positions. He shared the goal for the school was to support new teachers with assistance from district staff and instructional coaches. Mr. Snider highlighted the following: school event attended by the local community partners; building positive relationship with the community; gaming course available to students; and \$10,000 awarded to the Hemingway Secondary School for Improvement with the assistance of Dr. Wybms, Transformational Coach, to improve the Athletics Department and facility improvement. Mr. Snider ended his presentation with hiring a consultant to increase student achievement on various assessments.

**Bonita Glover, Kingstree High School, Principal** provided an update on a successful merger between Kingstree High School and C. E. Murray High School. She highlighted several activities that contributed to the success of the merger to include the band, theater, Meet the Blazers (football team and cheerleaders), rebranding of the school and a robust of courses for students. Also, with the increase of electives and courses offered to students, hiring of additional staff, and assistance from local and state partners. She shared information about professional development and training for teachers in STEM.

**Dr. Tara Richardson, HOPE Academic, Principal**, provided an update on student enrollment, reported no incidents at the school, and the goal to assist students in returning to their regular schools. Students in grades ninth through twelfth are served at HOPE Academic

**Mr. Johnathan Chandler, C.E. Murray Elementary and Middle School, Principal** shared the goals of the school and the programs implemented to help students meet the school's goals. Mr. Chandler provided the board with the names of the various programs and a summary of each program. He also shared information about innovative programs to decrease students' disruptive behavior, improve student morale, and promote a family-orientated culture at the school. Mr. Chandler informed the board about adding the arts program to the school to expose students to different music and culture. In addition to seeking and securing community partners to assist with the arts program. He updated the board on the facility improvements at the school. The school's Open House scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**Torrance Wilson, Hemingway Career Technology Center, Principal** provided board members with a packet to include a brochure, PowerPoint presentation and a pen. He shared an overview of courses available to students at the center. Mr. Wilson stated that students were able to earn credit as well as certification to gain future employment. Mr. Wilson invited board members to visit the school to observe the many wonderful things happening to engage students and teachers in the learning experience.

The chair thanked principals for their informative presentations shared at the board meeting.

#### Video Presentation

A three minute and fifty-eight seconds video of Kingstree High School and C. E. Murray Elementary/Middle School repurposing was viewed by board members and all present in-person and online.

Dr. Wymbs thanked principals and everyone for their work. Dr. Wymbs presented board member James Dukes with a flower on behalf of Dr. Wilder and district staff on the passing of his mother and former Williamsburg County School District employee, the late Corenthia Bradly Dukes.

**Board Items**

Marva Cannon, board chair, asked Carletta S. Isreal, secretary, to read the letter from Molly Spearmen dated August 22, 2022, (see attachment for more information) and distributed the SC Schools Boards Association Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy Beneficiaries to board members once the meeting was adjourned.

It was the consensus of the board for James Dukes, Jr., Vice Chair, to serve as an alternate at the School Board Legislative Meeting scheduled for December 2022. The chair asked board members to submit their questions in writing to her by Friday, August 26, 2022, if they had any questions about the principals' presentations.

The contributions of the late Mr. Levi Kenneth, former principal of Hemingway High School and to Williamsburg County School District was noted by the board.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Rev. Alfred Darby and seconded by Heyward Baker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Board Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carletta Scott Isreal, Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marva B. Cannon, Board Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_